



**US Army Corps
of Engineers
Transatlantic Programs Center**

A look at our past

The Transatlantic Programs Center, a major subordinate command within the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, has organizational roots to the early 1950's when services were provided in the Mediterranean and Middle East regions. Predecessor organizations existed in diverse configurations, names, and locations. Throughout its half-century existence, the mission has remained constant: provide engineering design and construction management services to support U.S. defense initiatives abroad.

Earlier organizations began in 1952 with the Mediterranean Division, headquartered in Livorno, Italy, formed to build air bases to help Turkey deter the Soviet threat, military construction projects and work for the Strategic Air Command and the Agency for International Development.

In 1976, the Mediterranean Division evolved into the Middle East Division to support a growing workload in Saudi Arabia. Headquartered in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, with a rear echelon headquarters near Berryville, Virginia, the division managed a complex \$14-billion program to improve its military facilities including military cantonments, headquarters complexes, air and navy bases, and training centers. The Corps also constructed facilities in Oman for use by U.S. forces.

The organization emerged in 1986 as the Middle East/Africa Projects Office, a district-level element of the Corps' South Atlantic Division. Headquartered in Winchester, Virginia, programs were managed in Egypt, Bahrain, Kuwait, Sudan, Saudi Arabia, and throughout Africa. This organization was in the region within days of the 1990 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. Support for deployed troops continued throughout Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

The Transatlantic Division was formed in 1991 by combining the Corps' missions in the Middle East and Europe. Europe District became a subordinate command of the Transatlantic Division. In addition to its normal engineering missions, the first half of the decade brought tremendous challenges to the Transatlantic Division:

- Assisting Kuwait's government with its recovery and infrastructure reconstruction, public systems, government buildings, transportation networks, and defense facilities.
- Assisting with Operation Provide Comfort, providing relief to Kurdish refugees in Turkey and northern Iraq.
- Expanding its engineering support to U.S. Central Command, a major unified command serving the Middle East region.
- Working in the former Soviet Union for programs ranging from embassy renovation to assisting with projects to reduce the threat of chemical and nuclear weapons.
- And developing, awarding, and administering the Army's Logistics Civil Augmentation Program contract from 1992-1997, used to provide logistics and engineering services to U.S. forces deployed to Somalia, Rwanda/Zaire, Haiti, the Middle East, Italy, and the Balkans.

In 1995, the Transatlantic Division was renamed the Transatlantic Programs Center. Another organizational change in 1998 reassigned Europe District to the Corps' North Atlantic Division. With that change, Transatlantic Programs Center's area of operations is the Middle East, Africa, and Russia.